

Talking Points on H.R. 363

Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Act

- H.R. 363 implements action items needed to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in the global economy.
- The bill addresses the recommendation of a report of the National Academy of Sciences (*Rising Above The Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*) to –
 - “sustain and strengthen the nation’s traditional commitment to long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life.”
- H.R. 363 is a bipartisan bill that was unanimously reported by the Science and Technology Committee.
- H.R. 363:
 - supports outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers through grants at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy of \$80,000 per year for 5 years;
 - enlarges an existing program at NSF supporting graduate students in multidisciplinary fields of national importance;
 - establishes a presidential innovation award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances in the national interest;
 - sets up a national coordination office to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories;
 - authorizes NSF to support research on innovation;
 - directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to report on efforts to recruit and retain early-career scientists and engineers; and
 - expresses the sense of Congress that a balanced science program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration contributes significantly to innovation and competitiveness.
- The main provisions of this bill focus support on early-career awards for scientists and engineers. Young researchers are more likely than established researchers to shift paradigms, break with tradition, or bring new ideas to a discipline or to a combination of disciplines.

- The NSF program in the bill that supports graduate students focuses on interdisciplinary graduate study. Many people argue that the innovation frontier is now found principally in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.
- This bill doesn't simply seek to fund all science; it focuses on fostering the most innovative elements of the scientific enterprise.
- H.R. 363 is widely endorsed by industry and academia, including by the Business Roundtable and the Council on Competitiveness.